

30 March 2006
Thursday

READINGS

Psalm 73; Exodus 1:6-22; Corinthians 12:12-26; Mark 8:27-9:1

DEVOTION

Asaph, the author of the 73rd Psalm, is believed to have been one of the leaders of David's choir and a skilled musician. Despite his high position and great talent, he writes of his temptation to doubt his favor with God and envy the lives of others.

I know that I can easily relate to such doubt, and I have often asked God what part I am supposed to have in His work. How, as members of the body of Christ, do we have assurance about our location, position, vocation etc...?

This question is one that I ask each time I come to a crossroads in my life. When it came time for me to choose my college major, for example, I was forced to make a choice between music and engineering. With music, I already had some practical experience and could easily imagine what my life might look like in that kind of career. Engineering, on the other hand, was more of an unknown for me, and it took some faith on my part to choose that road. When I think back on that decision, I can only imagine how different my life would be had I chosen music as my major. It is an act of faith to allow God to lead us, through prayer and consideration, into our roles as eyes, hands and feet of the body of Christ. It also takes faith not to dwell upon or worry about our past decisions, good or bad. Like Paul, we should be "forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead" (Philippians 3:13 NIV).

If we do not, we may find ourselves, like Asaph, envying others or worrying about the relative honor in our part of the body. Similar questions were asked about Jesus during His time here on earth. What was His purpose? Was He John the Baptist or Elijah? Did He rise from the dead? But Peter, in Mark 8:29, was confident that Jesus was the Christ, just as we should be confident in our part in God's work, if we are earnestly seeking it.

Prayer: Holy Father, thank you for the blessed assurance we have in Christ through His death and resurrection. We ask you to lead us as we pursue your will for our lives.

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